

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 02259 121441Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W

----- 105426

R 121405Z NOV 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1647

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2259

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, UR, UK

SUBJECT: ABRASIMOV-WRIGHT CONVERSATION, NOV 10

1. BRITISH MISSION HAS INFORMED US THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV RAISED WAS MEMORIAL INCIDENT OF NOV 6 WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR WRIGHT DURING LATTER'S INTRODUCTORY CALL NOV 10. ABRASIMOV SAID THAT INCIDENT HAD BEEN RESULT OF MISUNDERSTANDING AND HAD BEEN INFLATED BY AMERICANS (SIC) OUT OF ALL PROPORTION FOR PURPOSE OF SPREADING DISSENSION. SOVIETS, HE NOTED, HAD DEALT WITH GREAT FOREBEARANCE WITH AMERICANS WHEN LATTER HAD INFRINGED RULES IN EAST BERLIN. SOVIETS HAD NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT BRITISH, BUT THEY SHOULD HAVE STOPPED GDR VEHICLES AT FRONTIER (SIC) AND LET THEM GO BACK TO EAST BERLIN.

2. BRANCHING OUT TO MORE GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS, ABRASIMOV SAID THAT SOVIET UNION WISHED QA TO BE RESPECTED AND WANTED TO AVOID TENSIONS. HE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 02259 121441Z

ASSERTED THAT SOVIET AGREEMENT IN QA THAT ACCESS

TO BERLIN SHOULD BE UNHINDERED WAS BALANCED BY THAT OF ALLIES TO EFFECT THAT CITY WAS NOT PART OF FEDERAL REPUBLIC. DESPITE THIS, HOWEVER, FEDERAL GERMANS APPEARED NOT TO BE DIMINISHING THEIR PRESENCE IN BERLIN BUT RATHER INCREASING IT; VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER AND DISCUSSION ABOUT WEST BERLIN REPRESENTATION IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WERE EXAMPLES. ABRASIMOV SAID THAT HE WAS SURE THAT MOVES OF THIS SORT WERE BEING CARRIED OUT BY MAYOR AND BONN AUTHORITIES WITH COGNIZANCE OF ALLIES. IF BERLIN WAS TOUCHSTONE OF DETENTE, PARTIES TO QA SHOULD FULFILL AGREEMENT AND NOT ALLOW OTHERS (E.G., FRG AND SENAT) TO PRETEND TO INTERPRET IT.

3. BRITISH AMBASSADOR KEPT HIS SIDE OF CONVERSATION GENERAL, AGREEING WITH ABRASIMOV'S WISH TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS AND CONCURRING THAT AGREEMENTS TO WHICH TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD PUT THEIR SIGNATURES SHOULD BE OBSERVED.

4. ABRASIMOV DID NOT RAISE THE VYATKIN AFFAIR, NOR THE ASSOCIATED "ANTI-SOVIET PRESS CAMPAIGN." WITH RESPECT TO ABRASIMOV'S POINT THAT THE BRITISH SHOULD HAVE TURNED BACK THE NVA VEHICLES AT THE CROSSING POINT, THE BRITISH RESPONDED THAT THEY HAD NOT WANTED TO DISTURB THE SOLEMNITY OF THE OCCASION, NOT HAVING NOTICED THE CARS UNTILL THEY ARRIVED AT THE WAR MEMORIAL. THE ATMOSPHERE, ACCORING TO THE BRITISH POLAD, WAS REASONABLY RELAXED.

5. COMMENT: ABRASIMOV'S REMARKS ON WAR MEMORIAL INCIDENT REPRESENT SAME COMBINATION OF APOLOGY AND DEFENSIVENESS THAT CHARACTERIZED KHOTULEV'S STATEMENT OF NOV 10 TO US POLAD. WE WOULD JUDGE THAT SOVIETS THEMSELVES WITH TO CONSIDER INCIDENT CLOSED.

6. WITH RESPECT TO CHARGE THAT AMERICANS WERE PLAYING UP INCIDENT, ABRASIMOV MUST KNOW THAT BRITISH, IN WHOSE SECTOR VIOLATION TOOK PLACE AND WHOSE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 02259 121441Z

PROTOCOL OFFICERS WERE LED DOWN GARDEN PATH ON ARRANGEMENTS, WERE EVERY BIT AS EXERCISED.

7. FINALLY, WE NOTE THAT IN SPACE OF FORTNIGHT, ABRASIMOV HAS COME UP WITH TWO DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF QA WHICH FOLLOW OF COURSE ON HEELS OF ARTICLE 7 OF GDR-SOVIET TREATY. LAST WEEK, HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE "KEY" PROVISION OF QA IS

THAT BERLIN MUST NOT BE GOVERNED BY FRG; MAYOR SCHUETZ  
AND OTHERS BROKS INTO IRINT TO POINT OUT THAT THE  
OTHER "KEY" PROVISION REMAINS THE MAINTENANCE AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF BERLIN-FRG TIES. WITH AMBASSADOR  
WRIGHT, HE BALANCED UNHINDERED ACCESS TO BERLIN  
AGAINST THE NO-FRG CONTROL PROVISION. COMMON ELEMENT IN  
THESE POSITIONS WOULD SEEM BE SOVIET DESIRE TO WISH AWAY  
FACT THAT THEY AGREED EXPLICITLY TO MAINTENANCE  
AND DEVELOPMENT OF BONN-BERLIN TIES. SAME POINT  
WAS SUGGESTED AT PROTESTANT CHURCH MEETING HERE LAST  
WEEK BY BEREZHKOVA OF USSR'S USA INSTITUTE, WHO SAID  
THAT WEST BERLIN COULD FLOURISH AS SITE FOR INTERNA-  
TIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES AS LONG AS EVERYONE  
BORE IN MIND THAT IT CANNOT BE GOVERNED BY FRG.  
GEORGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BERLIN ACCESS, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975USBERL02259  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750394-0101  
**From:** USBERLIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751152/aaaabuwp.tel  
**Line Count:** 130  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ABRASIMOV-WRIGHT CONVERSATION, NOV 10  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PFOR, WB, GC, UR, UK, (ABRASIMOV), (WRIGHT)  
**To:** STATE BONN  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006